

Article 19 calls on Syria to repeal emergency law

NICOSIA (AP) — A London based human rights group Friday called on Syria to end its 30-year state of emergency, release all political prisoners, and abolish censorship. The group, Article 19, said it was issuing the call in a letter to President Hafez al-Assad to coincide with the 30th anniversary of the law, which falls Monday. Syria celebrates that date as the anniversary of the 1963 coup led by the now-ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party. Article 19 said the emergency law has been used to ban and violently suppress a number of non-government political parties including the Party of Communist Action and the Muslim Brotherhood. "Political suspects have been arrested, tortured and detained often without charge or trial for long periods, in some cases over two decades," the group said in its letter. "Trials of such suspects are rare and even when held always fall below the international standards of due process and are rarely public." It listed a number of names of political prisoners, including Riad Al Turk, first secretary of the banned Communist Party politburo. It said he was arrested in 1980 and has been held since without charge or trial.

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Iranian cleric demands British contracts be cancelled

NICOSIA (AP) — With Tehran-London ties strained over the Salman Rushdie affair, a senior Iranian cleric Friday demanded that the government cancel trade agreements with Britain. Tehran Radio reported. Speaking in a sermon at Tehran University, Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati criticised the British government for meeting with Mr. Rushdie. Ayatollah Jannati said Mr. Rushdie's Feb. 4 meeting with Britain's Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg was meant to "shatter Islam's dignity and open the way for anyone to insult Muslim sanctities, and to force Iran to surrender to Britain's wishes." In radio remarks monitored in Nicosia, he called on the Iranian parliament to "review" ties with Britain, and if needed, to cancel several contracts. Ayatollah Jannati said trade between Tehran and London amounted to about \$1 billion per year. "The same things or goods we are buying from Britain can be bought from other countries," he said. Tehran-London ties have been strained ever since Iran's late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini said in February 1989 that Mr. Rushdie should be killed for insulting Islam in his novel, "The Satanic Verses." Ayatollah Jannati said the ruling was "a divine edict which, sooner or later, will be implemented."

Jordan Times

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King attends Mutah celebration

MUTAH (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday attended a grand celebration at Mutah University marking the 800th anniversary of the death of Muslim leader Saladin who was born in Iraq on 1137 and died in Damascus on 1193. King Hussein was received upon arriving at the celebration site by Mutah University President Mohammad Adnan Al Bakht, members of the Royal Commission of Mutah University and members of the university's deans council. Dr. Bakht delivered an address in which he welcomed King Hussein and lauded the role played by Sultan Saladin in liberating the Holy City of Jerusalem from the invading Crusaders. Dr. Bakht said Sultan Saladin, who was born in Iraq and grew up in Baalbek, Lebanon, unified the lands of Egypt, Greater Syria, Iraq and Yemen into one state.

Rockets land in Israeli-held zone

TYRE, Lebanon (R) — Guerrillas fired two Katyusha rockets into Israel's self-declared "secure zone" in South Lebanon Thursday night and both fell near the Israeli border, security sources said Friday. They said artillery responded by lobbing eight rounds towards the launching sites. The Israeli army said Thursday one Katyusha hit the western part of the zone but there were no casualties or damage. A spokesman for a U.N. peacekeeping force in South Lebanon said Fijian troops found and dismantled two Katyushas linked to a timer on Thursday afternoon. Hezbollah (Party of God) said its guerrillas attacked a patrol of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia on the edge of the zone Thursday, killing four militiamen.

Yeltsin, Clinton to meet in Canada

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin will hold their April summit in Vancouver, Canada, U.S. and Russian officials said Friday. The summit, originally billed as a one-way meeting, will be held over two days, April 3-4, said the U.S. sources.

Ridley dies at 64

LONDON (R) — Former British cabinet minister Lord Ridley, who resigned from the government three years ago in a row over anti-German remarks, has died, a source close to the family said Friday. Ridley, 64, was an outspoken critic of closer ties with Europe and a stalwart of the government of former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Ridley, an acerbic figure from the right wing of the ruling Conservatives, resigned as trade and industry secretary in 1990 over a magazine interview in which he accused the Germans of using proposed monetary union as a tool to take over Europe. He served in Thatcher's cabinet for most of the 1980s, as transport, environment and then trade secretary.

Turkey to probe radical Islam

ANKARA (R) — School inspectors in Turkey will visit mainly Kurdish southeast to check reports that Muslim fundamentalists are spreading propaganda in schools there, the education minister said Friday. Koksal Topcan told the Anatolia news agency recent press reports and complaints had spurred the ministry to send five inspectors to the province of Batman, where the Hezbollah (Party of God) militants are said to be spreading propaganda.

Budget

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Police expect more arrests in blast at World Trade Centre

25-year-old Arab arraigned in New York

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Investigation of the bombing of the World Trade Centre zeroed in Friday on Muslim fundamentalists in the United States after a young Arab was charged with the attack.

New York City Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said more arrests were expected in the case which federal prosecutor described as "the single most destructive act of terrorism ever committed in America."

"That is a distinct possibility (more arrests)," he said in an interview with ABC Television's Good Morning America.

Mr. Kelly declined to speculate on the motive of Mohammad Salameh, the man arrested Thursday and charged as the builder of the massive bomb that destroyed three floors of the twin-tower complex, killed five persons and injured more than 1,000.

"We've got someone who we think was a significant player in this incident. We are hoping for developments similar to this. We are certainly not precluding that others were involved," Mr. Kelly said.

A federal law officer saw, however, that key people linked to the suspect in the bombing had

disappeared and might have fled to the Middle East.

Investigators "know a few of the people involved with (Salameh). We can't say whether it is four or five, or 12 or 15," the official told the Associated Press on the condition of anonymity.

It was not clear if those sought were suspects.

Federal agents continued to search Friday for accomplices and a clear motive in the bombing. Salameh was arrested when tried to get back his \$400 deposit for the rented van believed to have held the bomb.

Salameh, 25, described as a follower of a radical Egyptian cleric, Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, was ordered held without bail Thursday.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman, 54 and blind, has lived in self-imposed exile in New Jersey since 1990. He was acquitted a decade ago in Egypt on charges that he sanctioned the 1981 assassination of President Anwar Sadat.

But in a statement released Friday through an Arab-American community leader in New York, the sheikh "unequivocally denounced the bombing."

Authorities were still uncertain

(Continued on page 5)

Palestinians to visit U.S. for talks on peace process

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials said Friday they expected Palestinian negotiators to meet U.S. officials in Washington soon to talk about Middle East peace talks.

One official said the PLO gave permission to negotiators to visit Washington to "go deeper into the U.S. proposals" after a meeting in Tunis or its Executive Committee.

The officials did not say who will go.

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri said Thursday his country will go to the next round of Middle East peace talks, which Washington expects to start in April.

But Faisal Al Hussein, the head of the Palestinian delegation, expressed reservations over a U.S. plan to restart the talks Thursday, saying "ambiguities" had emerged in U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's proposals.

Palestinians insist their delegation cannot return to face-to-face talks with Israelis before a crisis over 400 Palestinians expelled to Lebanon is resolved.

The talks have been suspended since the explosion on Dec. 17.

The PLO Executive Committee decided to let the negotiators go to Washington after hearing a report from PLO Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas on his mission to Moscow this week, officials said.

Egypt received Thursday a message from Mr. Christopher regarding the peace process, a Cairo Foreign Ministry official said.

The official said the message from Mr. Christopher to Foreign Minister Amr Moussa was part of consultations regarding the resumption of the Middle East peace talks in Washington.

He said that April 19 was the date suggested by the U.S. Mr. Christopher's message was relayed by U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Robert Pelletreau to Mr. Moussa.

Mr. Hariri said Tuesday Lebanon wants Israel to take back the 400 Palestinians stranded in South Lebanon weeks ago.

Asked whether the continuation of the peace talks depended on a solution to the crisis, Lebanese journalists quoted Mr. Hariri as saying on Thursday.

"This is our position: we are with the peace negotiations (with Israel) and are going to the negotiations and we adhere to the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 739."

Resolution 739 passed a day after Israel banished the Palestinians to South Lebanon, demands that the Jewish state immediately take them all back.

"What we care about is that the deportees do not enter Lebanon," said Mr. Hariri, reiterating Beirut's stand on the exiles. "We prefer they return to their homelands as soon as possible."



A Palestinian woman Friday passes Israeli soldiers patrolling Arab East Jerusalem (AFP photo)

75 feared killed in crash near Macedonian capital

SKOPJE, Macedonia (Agencies)

Seventy-five people were feared killed Friday when a Fokker passenger plane plunged 400 metres to the ground shortly after it took off from the Macedonian capital, Macedonian radio said.

Controllers at Skopje's Petrovac airport said the Fokker 100, owned by the Macedonian company Palair, "fell out of the sky," one minute after it took off for Zurich just after noon (1100 GMT). It was believed to be carrying 97 people.

The radio said 75 bodies were believed to be in the wreckage of the twin turbofan aircraft, which came down in a field about 11 kilometres east of Skopje near the village of Arancino.

Four of 22 injured survivors taken to hospital had died and another five were fighting for their lives, the radio said. Witnesses said at least 14 of the injured had horrific burns.

The director of Skopje airport, Dagoje Filipovski, said he did

not know the cause of the crash or have the passengers' nationalities.

Belgrade Radio said an initial investigation indicated that one of the jet's two engines apparently failed during takeoff on a flight to Zurich, Switzerland.

Macedonia has avoided the bloody conflict that has wracked two other former Yugoslav republics that declared independence Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. However, few countries have recognised Macedonia because of objections by neighbouring Greece to its name — the same as that of a northern Greek province.

Fokker spokesman Bart van Veen said the plane was leased to Palair. The Fokker 100 is a 100-seat twin engine jet designed for short and medium-length flights. Introduced in the late 1980s, it is the Amsterdam-based manufacturer's latest model and the mainstay of its fleet.

Fokker N.V. said Palair had leased the plane one month ago.

Israel seals Gaza home

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli army Friday sealed the family home of a Palestinian suspected of stabbing to death two Israelis and wounding nine others in an attack in Tel Aviv, military officials said.

Palestinian sources said Ziyad Salim Silmi, 19, in custody since Monday's attack, had lived in the house in the occupied Gaza Strip with his parents and nine siblings.

In the occupied West Bank town of Jenin, troops captured Yousef Israfil, 25, a leader of the Black Panthers, who is suspected of killing Palestinian collaborators and attacking soldiers, military sources said.

Palestinians said he was shot and wounded in the leg when he tried to evade arrest.

Police said Thursday they had arrested an Israeli truck driver for the killing of an elderly Palestinian two days ago.

Police said the man, who they identified only as a Jerusalem resident, said he opened fire after his truck was stoned going through an Arab East Jerusalem neighbourhood on Tuesday.

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Soldiers shot and wounded a 28-year-old Arab who had stoned Israeli vehicles outside of Beit Jalla near Bethlehem, the army said.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, the army sealed the home of two brothers who had confessed to participating in the stoning of an Israeli killed Tuesday in a refugee camp in Rafah.

(Continued on page 3)

Jordanians seek \$3 billion in Gulf crisis compensation from Geneva-based U.N. fund

By Marjan M. Shabani
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Day in and day out Yahiya Oteibi sits in a cold office just off Jabal Amman's Third Circle and fills out form after form. Taking them home every night to recheck his work, Mr. Oteibi feels duty-bound to make sure that every application for Gulf war compensation contains all the necessary details. "No question must be left unanswered 'i' without a line, 'no' without a dot," he says.

Mr. Oteibi is one of the nearly 400 Jordanian and Palestinian returnees from Kuwait who are applying for compensation for damages suffered during the Gulf war.

"We appreciate what the Ministry of Labour is doing on our behalf. But we need to recheck everything for ourselves — it's safer," he says.

Many of the applicants make mistakes while filling the forms or do not have complete information or papers to support their claims. "Many returnees left Kuwait in such hurry that they left important documents behind.

through the Jordanian Ministry of Labour, which is the commission's local official counterpart in this endeavour.

Everything from compensation for unexpected departure to compensation for furniture and personal loss to personal injury is being filed.

Cardboard boxes filled with data on companies and partnerships in Kuwait line the cold office of Mr. Oteibi. Along with one volunteer assistant, Amina, Mr. Oteibi goes through every application word by word.

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Many of the applicants make mistakes while filling the forms or do not have complete information or papers to support their claims. "Many returnees left Kuwait in such hurry that they left important documents behind.

"Some people had them in safety deposit boxes in banks and others kept some of the documents with their Kuwaiti patrons or partners," Mr. Oteibi says. A quick departure and the chaos of occupied Kuwait are frequently cited by applicants as reasons why their legal and business papers are not complete.

But Mr. Oteibi fears that the commission in Geneva will throw out incomplete applications and thus he has taken it upon himself to try and assure that every application is complete.

While applicant has yet received compensation from the Geneva commission, Mr. Oteibi believes that the commission will make some compensation available soon.

"It will happen sooner or later. Right now our mission is to record our claims," he says.

Mr. Oteibi fears that there will be "counter-claims" from the Kuwaiti patrons and partners of

(Continued on page 5)

Four years into democratisation, self-censorship is a reality in Jordan

By Stephanie Gaskin
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Three years into the democratisation process, the Jordanian press is still unable to completely remove the constraints imposed through decades of censorship, many journalists say.

They claim that the press is still subject to government, religious, cultural and professional pressures that have eased but not disappeared since the Kingdom held parliamentary elections in 1989.

According to reporters and editors interviewed, neither official government censors nor the responsible ministry

intervene in the affairs of the press, a practice characteristic of the pre-democratic era.

Most agree, however, that this has by no means eliminated censorship altogether.

Many in the field maintain that numerous forms of censorship are endemic in the business: Government, advertisers, editors, and self-censorship practised by journalists themselves.

"Mental censorship is when editors and chief editors have in their minds that somebody somewhere can kick them out for anything he doesn't like to be published," he explained.

Because three major Arabic dailies are substantially owned by the government, officials continue to have an impact on reporting and news coverage, another editor explained.

The frontpages of the Arabic press often are filled with public relations items, he said.

Government officials and politicians feed reporters the information they want the pub-

lic to read in order to bolster their performance records or to increase their constituency in an upcoming election, the editor explained.

Chief editors comply with this practice for two reasons, according to the source, explaining the symbiotic nature of the relationship between chief editors and government officials.

"First, they get favours in return," he said. "Secondly, by appeasing these officials they continue to supply the chief editors with information and news," he added.

In addition, the government

line continues to dominate the pages of the daily press through Petra, the news agency owned and operated by the government, said one journalist.

"Look at the pages of the

Middle East News

Somali aid workers voice doubts over U.N. force

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Relief workers in Somalia expressed scepticism Friday whether a proposed United Nations peacekeeping force would be able to control the famine-stricken country riven by violent clan feuds.

Aid workers and many Somalis said the United Nations lacked the organisational ability, political will, rapport with local factions and firepower to maintain law and order in the devastated Horn of Africa country.

They remembered with sadness the response of the United Nations to the Somali crisis after clan-based militias overthrew dictator Mohammad Siad Barre two years ago and then turned their weapons on each other.

The world body pulled out, saying Somalia was no longer safe for its staff. Only non-governmental organisations remained during factional fighting which killed an estimated 30,000 people and 10 times that number in the accompanying famine.

The carnage ended only after a multi-national force led by the United States arrived in December to protect relief supplies from looting by lawless, clan-based militiamen.

Abdi Hassan Farah, a former lecturer at the University in Mogadishu, said: "We feel bitter towards the United Nations because it acted like an irresponsible parent who walks out of the house when his children are turning knives on each other."

"Had the United Nations stayed on the ground, we would

never have reached the disaster that is Somalia today."

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, in a report to the Security Council Wednesday, proposed May 1 for the transfer of command from the U.S.-led Unified Task Force (UNITAF) to a new 28,000-strong U.N. force.

The new force, to be called the U.N. Operation in Somalia II (UNOSOM II), would take over in stages and would initially include about 8,000 logistic troops from UNITAF.

"We have no faith in UNOSOM. The United Nations is partly to blame for the problems in this country," Issa Mohammad Siad, foreign secretary of warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed, told Reuters.

"Now that they will be taking over from the Americans, we are not sure what the future will bring."

The Security Council is now studying Dr. Ghali's report and has yet to decide on the U.N. force's mandate. Foreign relief workers hoped it would be able to play a tougher role than previous U.N. missions around the world.

"I am worried because in Somalia we need a dynamic U.N. force, a force that is efficient on the humanitarian relief side, a decisive force," Steven Rifkin, field director of the British-based Save the Children Fund, told Reuters.

He said the U.N. force should have the ability to promote rapport with various factions while commanding the firepower to control them.

Some commanders of the non-U.S. military contingents now in Somalia said they did not want to remain and take part in a U.N. mission unless the Security Council defined similar rules to those of the U.S.-led task force.

"We not only need the kind of firepower America has displayed ... but also the necessary rules of engagement that will not reduce us to the mercy of warlords and a laughing stock," said one commander who declined to be named.

"I would not like to see my contingent end up like the Pakistanis, powerless and unable to play a forceful role in reconstruction of Somalia," he added.

He was referring to a U.N. force of 500 Pakistani troops which proved unable to drive gunmen from Mogadishu's port, airport and streets before the multi-national force arrived.

U.S. troops and those from 23 other nations have orders to shoot to kill any gunman who aims at them. They have killed scores of people and cowed the gunmen who previously preyed on food supplies for the starving.

The special U.N. envoy to Somalia, Ismat Kitani, called on the Security Council Thursday to lay down tough rules of engagement so that the U.N. peacekeeping force could disarm a country awash with weapons.

He told reporters: "It remains for the Security Council to give the U.N. secretary-general the necessary mandate forceful enough to achieve our task in Somalia."



A U.S. Marine checks a car at a checkpoint in Mogadishu (AFP photo)

Court martial begins

The first court-martial hearing of Operation Restore Hope began Thursday in a dusty room where Sergeant Harry Conde faced charges for shooting a 17-year-old Somali who snatched his sunglasses.

Sgt. Conde, a veteran from San Juan, Puerto Rico, could be charged with the military equivalent of an aggravated assault for wounding the teen-age as well as a bystander hit by buckshot from Sgt. Conde's gun. If the court martial proceeds, he could face up to 10 years in prison.

As a power generator drowns in the background, nervous Marines testified in the room at Mogadishu's airport. Their words frequently were blotted out by the roar of planes taking off and landing.

Captain Chris Wesely, the investigating officer, sat behind a battered table. Only a few folding metal chairs were available, so some spectators sat on wooden drawers turned on their sides. Sheets of bare plywood served as a partition.

This was not the sharp-creased world of "Few Good Men" the movie, starring Jack Nicholson and Demi Moore, about two Marines court-martialed for the death of another Marine.

There was not a dress-blue uniform in sight Thursday. The Marines wore their battered camouflage fatigues with sleeves rolled up and sand-coloured boots, standard issue of the Somalia relief mission that began

Dec. 9.

The courtroom Marines lacked cinematic bravado: they were nervous, uncomfortable men who had to be told often to speak up.

There is no dispute that Sgt. Conde shot a youth, identified only as Omar, who grabbed the soldier's sunglasses through the window of a moving humvee military vehicle that was returning to the airport.

At issue is whether Sgt. Conde fired on the spur of the moment, fearing for his safety, or if the shot came as Omar was fleeing and was fired in revenge.

Omar, hit in the abdomen by several pellets, was treated at a Swedish field hospital but later vanished. No-one is even sure he's still alive.

Belgium upgrades PLO office in Brussels

BRUSSELS (AP) — The Belgian government has upgraded the status of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) office in Brussels, but stopped short of granting diplomatic status to PLO representatives.

The move was welcomed by the PLO as "a positive and courageous decision." But the Israeli foreign ministry called it a "mistake."

This gesture underlines that in the context of the peace process, the PLO represents an essential partner that brings together the most moderate and pragmatic Palestinian forces," said a spokesman from the Belgian foreign ministry.

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Whatever government emerges, it will need all the authority it can muster for the huge challenges facing northern Iraq.

The Kurds, who share the region with smaller groups of Turkomans and Christians, are beset by a crippling economic crisis and military danger from Baghdad.

One change took place on March 1. Younis Mohammad Salim was named interior minister, taking a portfolio previously held by Mr. Shawais, the deputy prime minister.

Widely tipped to replace him is another PUK man, Abdullah Rasoul Ali, better known by his guerrilla codename Kusrat.

Kusrat, 40, confirmed that he would become prime minister if Mr. Talabani did not agree to take over as premier with Mr. Barzani as speaker of parliament

Leahy warns of likely cuts in U.S. foreign aid

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Senator Patrick Leahy, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, says there is every likelihood that Congress will cut security assistance to the largest recipients — Israel and Egypt.

At a hearing on foreign aid reform March 2, Mr. Leahy said that U.S. taxpayers expect cuts in foreign aid spending during fiscal year 1994 because they are already facing across-the-board cuts in domestic spending proposed by the Clinton administration.

"It is not prudent for a nation to rely in the long term, even on its most dependable ally, for 7 to 8 per cent of its national budget," Ambassador William Harrop told a group of Tel Aviv business leaders Thursday in a speech made available to the Associated Press by the embassy.

"It may prove difficult to maintain our economic aid at its current level," he said. Israel annually receives more than \$3 billion in American grants and economic assistance.

In Washington, a State Department official said President Bill Clinton's budget proposal calls for \$3 billion in aid to Israel in the next fiscal year.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Mr. Harrop was giving his personal views and not speaking on behalf of the administration.

Mr. Harrop said that during recent visits from U.S. senators he was advised that domestic budget concerns could force the United States to reduce aid to Israel.

He said the senators who articulated that position were Mr. Leahy and Sen. Daniel Inouye both considered good friends of Israel.

Mr. Harrop commended Israeli efforts to reform its economy by using U.S. loan guarantees of \$10 billion to spur growth of the private sector.

"But the pace of reform has been slow, in fact rather disappointing," Mr. Harrop said. "Much more needs to be done."

He said Israel needed to do more to attract foreign investment.

Putting the deportation issue behind us, thus enabling all sides to focus on returning to the negotiating table," Mr. Djerejian reported.

The secretary "provided the Palestinians with a letter from President Clinton and a letter from himself which reiterated some of the basic assurances of the U.S. government" Mr. Djerejian said.

These assurances included "that the United States was standing absolutely behind the Madrid frame of reference, the letters of assurance to the parties ... and to the terms of reference in the letter of invitation" to the peace negotiations, he said. The United States also reiterated its "opposition to deportations as a policy."

Mr. Christopher made clear throughout his trip that the United States will be working "very closely with the parties to move the peace process forward in a very active way, adopting a proactive stance in the negotiations and especially when the new round convenes," Mr. Djerejian said.

Asked to elaborate on the U.S. role as full partner in the peace talks, Mr. Djerejian said: "We are prepared to use the good offices of the United States as an honest broker, as an intermediary, as a facilitator, to move the substantive discussions and negotiations forward; to help narrow the substantive differences between the parties; and to make every good faith effort to get the parties to make progress in the negotiations."

However, Mr. Djerejian said, in order for the United States to play the role of full partner, the parties to the negotiations must demonstrate they "are prepared to come to the table and engage in meaningful talks to narrow the differences between them."

On the question of breaking off U.S. contacts with members of the Islamic group, Hamas, Mr. Djerejian said "we certainly are not maintaining contacts with Hamas, and let me make it clear that we have never engaged in or have the intent to engage in a political dialogue with Hamas."

"Hamas is categorically opposed to the Arab-Israeli peace process.... And it has translated that policy not only in words but in deeds, in terms of violence ... and terrorism," he said.

After intensive discussions with the Palestinians and Israelis, the secretary found that the parties "were able to make progress in at this time."

U.S. court begins trial of Palestinian on bomb charge

Rose said.

The first bomb was defused at the towing pound by a rental car tow truck operator. George Soohoo said that after he checked the trunk for items that may have been left behind, he wiggled the detonation wires loose because he did not know what he was looking at.

The bombs in the other two vehicles were dismantled by the police bomb squad, Mr. Rose said. The explosive devices apparently had been wired correctly and the materials were sound but the bombs still did not go off.

The trial is proceeding before Judge Jack D. Weinstein despite defence motions for a mistrial — one after Friday's World Trade Center Bombing and the second after a suspect was arrested in connection with that fatal blast.

Mr. Weinstein also denied a request by Mr. Jasseen's lawyer, William Kunster, to delay the trial, but the judge ordered the jury sequestered for the rest of the trial after he heard about the arrest of the bombing suspect.

The targets were all symbols of the Israeli government," Mr. Weinstein did not tell the jurors why they would be kept in custody.

Kurds plan 'government' change

ERBIL, Iraq (R) — Iraq's Kurds are now debating whether to change the government which has ruled them in defiance of President Saddam Hussein since elections last year.

The prime minister, Fuad Ma'soum, and other Kurdish officials in northern Iraq said there was popular pressure from the leaders of the two main parties, Jalal Talabani and Massoud Barzani, to take charge of the government based in Erbil.

"If this happens, we will get rid of a lot of problems," Mr. Ma'soum told Reuters. "Each political decision now also needs a decision by the parties. If the leaders are inside (the government), we will not need this double decision-making."

Mr. Barzani's Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) and Mr. Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) each have 50 seats in the 105-member regional parliament elected in June.

Since the government was set up, with posts shared between the KDP, PUK and smaller parties, the two powerful leaders have set aside their political rivalry so as not to endanger the fragile Kurdish entity which emerged after the 1991 Gulf war.

Neither man has publicly ruled out entering the government, but

his own preferred solution. "The change is needed to give energy to the government," he said at PUK headquarters in Erbil. "I will resolve the security problem and, with the help of the United Nations and NGOs (relief agencies), plan the economy for now and the future."

A government adviser said pressure for a new-look cabinet surfaced from within the administration itself during a new year review of progress in its first few months.

"People want a stronger government with better-qualified people, including independents not attached to the parties," said the Israeli foreign ministry called it a "mistake."

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Kusrat, 40, confirmed that he would become prime minister if Mr. Talabani did not agree to take over as premier with Mr. Barzani as speaker of parliament

Israel charges Palestinian-American

TEL AVIV (AP) — A military prosecutor on Thursday submitted preliminary charges against one of two Arab-Americans suspected by Israel by bankrolling the Muslim fundamentalist group Hamas.

The charges accuse Mohammad Salah, 39, of belonging to and carrying out services for an illegal organisation, but do not mention Hamas by name, said Mr. Salah's attorney, Ahliam Haddad.

Military Judge Major Moshe Knobler, in the occupied West Bank town of Hebron, asked the prosecutor to submit the official to Ms. Haddad.

Military officials had no immediate comment on the case.

confession, according to his lawyer. Israeli officials acknowledged that he had signed a confession before seeing a lawyer or any U.S. consular official.

The prosecutor was given a one week extension to decide whether or not to file charges against Mr. Jarrah, said his lawyer, Jawad Boulos.

Mr. Jarrah, who suffers from congenital heart disease, was taken to a prison hospital in the central Israeli town of Ramle last week after complaining of chest pain and has been staying there since, Mr. Boulos said.

Mr. Jarrah and Mr. Jarrah both emigrated to the United States about 20 years ago and reside in the Chicago area.

Mr. Jarrah told the judge he was being beaten and threatened by interrogators in order to extract a

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Bassam Farajah 756200
Dr. Saad Al 785285
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 840670
Dr. Falaki Tayeb 885880
Firas pharmacy 661912
Firouz pharmacy 778330
Al Adl pharmacy 678472
Nasrulah pharmacy 654752
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yusuf pharmacy 644945
Sanciousi pharmacy 657160
Najib pharmacy 847452

Min./Max. temp.: Amman 3 / 16
Aqaba 10 / 21
Dara 2 / 17
Jordan Valley 8 / 20

JORDAN: Dr. Mohammed Al Sharra 121
Dr. Quds Pharmacy 010230
Central Amman Telephone: Repair 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 11, Aqaba 22, Humidity readings: Amman 76 per cent, Aqaba 43 per

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 677111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 771221
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 843403
Post Office, Damascos 603221
Mahass, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeissani 6641714
Shmeissani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mustaq Hospital 6672229
The Islamic, Abdali 6



His Majesty King Hussein attends Friday prayers at the Royal Guard Mosque. The King was joined by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Faisal, Prince Hamza and Prince Hassem, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Private Chamberlain Prince Ali Ben Nayef, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi, Chief Islamic Justice Nooh Salman and Dr. Ahmad Helayel. Also attending the prayer were Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb and the commander of Al Hussein Ben Ali Brigade.

Aid distributed in Maan, Hasa areas

MAAN (Petra) — Secretary General of the Ministry of Social Development Mohammad Al Sqour Thursday supervised the distribution of food supplies to the needy in Maan governorate in accordance with a programme prepared by the ministry.

The programme will continue throughout the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Dr. Sqour also visited the ministry's centres in the governorate and was familiarised with their needs and the services they offer to the public.

The Secretary General also called at the Hasa area and met with its administrative governor, the mayor and heads of local tribes. Dr. Sqour told the meeting that

the ministry was ready to present cash and in-kind assistance to the poor in various parts of the country.

The Hasa mayor said the municipal council has allocated a plot of land for the ministry's use.

After distributing aid to the needy in the town, Dr. Sqour inaugurated a charity bazaar at Al Hasa Women's Society for Social Development. The three-day bazaar includes embroideries, carpets and rugs, knitwear and artificial flowers.

About 150 women are members of the society which holds training courses for them in tricot, flower arrangement and other handicrafts.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates president of Ghana

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday sent a cable to the President of Ghana congratulating him in his own name and on behalf of Jordan's people and government on his country's national day and wishing him continued good health and happiness and the people of Ghana further progress and prosperity.

Daylight savings begins April 1

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will switch to daylight savings time as of Apr. 1, according to a communiqué issued by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker. Clocks should be set one hour forward after midnight on March 31. Daylight saving time puts Jordan three hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).

Land office collects JD3,622,111 in February

AMMAN (Petra) — The Land and Survey Department last February collected JD3,622,111 up from JD3,410,361 in January, thus achieving an increase of 6 per cent, according to department Director Ali Gharaibeh. Mr. Gharaibeh said February 1993 figures were 68 per cent more than those of February 1992 when the department collected JD2,165,955.

City development bank chief tours villages

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Cities and Villages Development Bank Zuhair Khalifeh Thursday toured the municipalities of Irbid, Salt, Jerash, Kitteh, Souf, Faisalyeh and Al Nuqairah where he inspected projects financed by the bank. Dr. Khalifeh discussed with municipality officials in the areas he visited their areas' needs for projects for the current year.

Labour education head visits institutes

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of the Labour Education and Information Department Mahmoud Al Tell Thursday discussed with officials at the labour education institutes in various parts of Jordan the conditions and activities of these institutes in 1993. Mr. Tell stressed the need for these institutes to develop and update their cultural programmes.

Civil defence holds fire drills

IRBID (Petra) — On the occasion of the International Civil Defence Day, the Irbid Civil Defence Department (CDD) Thursday organised at Yarmouk University a fire extinguishing exercise. CDD sources in Irbid said the drill proved the high-level of performance of the civil defence personnel.

Proceeds of Madaba bazaar go to charity

MADABA (Petra) — The Madaba District Social Development Centres which are operated by the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF) Thursday organised a charity bazaar which included agricultural produce and foodstuffs. The proceeds of the one-day bazaar will go to the Third Annual Charity Campaign which is organised by QAF.

Israelis seal off Gaza home

(Continued from page 1)
The house of Iman and Amin Shaath was sealed before dawn. They were directly involved in the murder," an army official said.

At least 200 people have been arrested so far on suspicion of participating in the killing.

In the past the army has demolished or sealed whole sections of streets where Palestinian crowds had attacked and killed Israelis.

2 ex-exiles freed

Israel has freed two ailing Palestinians who had been brought back last month from exile in Lebanon, the army said Friday.

The U.N. Security Council condemned the expulsions and ordered Israel to repatriate the men. Israel refused, and later cut a deal with the United States to return about 100 of the men.

Student elections pit Islamists against tribal coalition

By Nermene Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — University of Jordan students go to the polls Monday to elect an 80-member council amid wide expectations that the Islamists will retain control of the body despite predictions of a stronger showing of the mainly tribal Nationalist Jordanian Coalition bloc.

The race among an estimated 250 student candidates for the 80-seat council will be the second to be held at the university and is expected to divide the student body into two clear blocks of Islamists against a coalition of tribal representatives.

The leftists, who boycotted the 1992 elections, are expected to give their support to the Islamists. The few independents on the race list are expected to withdraw

the date for the elections nears.

The seemingly depoliticised elections will serve as an indication, albeit on a small scale, of the divisions and alliances which will appear in the Kingdom's national elections scheduled for later this year. The university rules ban candidates from running for elections on political platforms, in conformity with the laws that ban the politicisation of educational centres. But candidates have, nevertheless, formed blocs and distributed leaflets announcing their commitment to one side or another.

A copy of the Islamists' programme at the university, which was made available to the Jordan Times, deals with various issues relevant to administrative matters and extracurricular activities at the university but excludes any

mention of Islamist ideas.

"We want students and others watching us to know that we have programmes and ideas that are practical and touch their lives and that we are not just the bearers of 'There is no God but Allah and Mohammad is His Prophet, great as that motto is,'" an Islamist candidate told the Jordan Times in an interview.

He charged that the Islamists would be satisfied with a smaller showing in this year's elections — they gained 64 out of 80 seats last year — and that their numbers this time may be closer to the 50 figure.

They attribute this expected decrease in numbers to the growth of a more organised Jordanian nationalist bloc, which largely depends on utilising the tribal affiliations of students, and the apparent ineffectiveness of

the leftists in the elections. The Islamists also claim that the university management "controlled" the elections when it banned students from running in political blocs, a charge that the university president, Dr. Fawzi Gharaibeh, categorically denies.

"We applied the laws which have been published in the university paper," Dr. Gharaibeh told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview, adding that some students had asked the management to amend the law ahead of the elections.

He said the university did not accept the amendment proposals because of their timing which could have meant that the university was siding with one party over the other. "If amendments are needed then we will look into them after the elections and not just before them." The demands

for amendments came from the Islamists who rejected university laws which limit the candidate to running as an independent rather than as a member of a bloc.

"We have to maintain our neutrality as administrators which is a must for gaining the confidence of the students," Dr. Gharaibeh said, explaining that had the university accepted the demands of the Islamists they would appear to be favouring them in Monday's elections.

The "surprise" element in the elections is the reported coalition between the left and the right (Islamists) against the tribal bloc even though university administrators privately say that the strength of the leftists "cannot tilt the results of the elections one way or another on the ground."

Islamist candidates admit that the race may boil down to a

contest between them and the nationalists and say that they understand that on a wider political scale in the country "this may become the reality of the political scene."

As a result of this understanding, they say they have utilised the tribal and geographic element in their own choices of candidates but add that they do not want to "institutionalise it."

Observers of the candidates and their divisions into blocs believe that the race may turn into one between the Islamists and the nationalists with the leftists choosing to throw in their lot with the Islamists, but they also add that it was still "premature to judge."

"The trends will become apparent when the results come out," one university observer said.

King donates JD1,405,598 to Jerusalem's Awqaf Council

By Elias Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A delegation representing the Awqaf Council and holy places in Jerusalem left Amman for home Friday morning following a three-day visit to Jordan.

The delegation was received by His Majesty King Hussein who made a generous donation towards helping the council carry out its tasks.

Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Secretary-General Ahmad Helayel told the Jordan Times Friday that the delegation members, except for the mufti of Jerusalem, all returned via the King Hussein Bridge, adding that the King's donation of JD1,405,598 has already been transferred to the council's account.

King Hussein, responding favourably to appeals by the staff of the Awqaf Council in Jerusalem to improve their living conditions, announced his personal donation to help meet this end.

This is the second major personal donation in 10 months by His Majesty towards the holy shrines in the city of Jerusalem. Last April the King made a personal contribution of \$8.24 million to help restore the Dome of the Rock.

The council conveyed to His Majesty the general situation in the holy places and thanked him for his continued support.

Sheikh Jaabari was formally appointed by the Jordanian government to succeed Sheikh Al Alami who died Feb. 6 at the age of 82.

The new mufti and his council voiced their deep appreciation to the King for his generosity in a cable Thursday saying that the gesture reflected the King's deep



Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi meets with Mufti of Jerusalem Sheikh Suleiman Al Jaabari Thursday (Petra photo)

concern over the situation of the holy shrines and the people involved in the upkeep of the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock.

Sheikh Jaabari Thursday met Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi and discussed the general affairs of Islamic shrines in Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, it was reported that work is continuing on the restoration of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, a project undertaken by the Mivan firm of Ireland.

The overall cost of the restoration project was expected to be around \$10 million.

Government to set up 9 new courts

AMMAN (Petra) — The government plans to set up nine new courts of law in different governorates, and the Ministry of Justice has already begun preparations for the project. Minister of Justice Yousef Mbeideen announced Thursday.

The minister said, of the nine courts, there will be six settlement courts, two municipal courts and one first instance court.

Upon directives issued by

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the Ministry of Justice conducted a study to determine the court needs of various governorates relative to the court cases pertaining to each governorate. The result was a recommendation to set up the nine new courts, Mr. Mbeideen said.

The Council of Ministers endorsed the project last month, and the government has made allocations for the premises, furniture, staff and other administra-

tive requirements, the minister said.

The first instance and settle-

ment courts will be responsible

for adjudicating cases in urban

and rural regions such as build-

ing, health and traffic violations,

as well as family and tribal dis-

putes.

The new courts will be estab-

lished in Ajloun, Rweished, Ain

Al Basha, Jizah, Dhiban, Aiy,

Husseinieh, Sahab and Ruseifa.

Free industrial, commercial zones to go up in Aqaba

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Free Zones Corporation (JFZC) plans to set up a free industrial zone and a free commercial zone in Aqaba for which tender documents have been prepared, according to an announcement by JFZC Director General Falah Qudah in a statement outlining the corporation's 1993 objectives.

Reporting also last year's achievements, Mr. Qudah said JFZC made sufficient allocations to establish a free zone at the Sabah Industrial City and another at the Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA).

Mr. Qudah said work is ex- pected to be completed on these two zones by the end of this year.

Furthermore, he announced

that during 1993, an industrial zone will be created at the Shidiyah phosphate mines in the south. He said the zone will benefit the planned industrial and mineral complex which will produce phosphate-based products by an Indian company working in concert with the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC).

In Aqaba, a similar project will be established to serve an industrial complex being executed by the JPMC in cooperation with a Japanese firm, Mr. Qudah said.

In 1992, revenues from the free zones amounted to JD4,537,000 compared to JD3,730,000 in 1991; an increase of 21 per cent, Mr. Qudah reported.

He said the additional revenues have enabled JFZC to cover the costs of its various expansion projects and new installations and to pay debts due to the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ).

Noting that the free zone in Zarqa witnessed increased activi-

ties in 1992, Mr. Qudah said a total of 1,053,000 tonnes entered the zone last year, compared to 825,720 in the 1991.

He said the total amount of goods re-exported from the free zones to Arab countries in 1992 was estimated at 1,045,000 tonnes compared to 777,000 tonnes in 1991.

Mr. Qudah said tenders were announced towards the end of last year to develop an additional 300 dunums as annexes to existing free zone lands in order to absorb additional investors.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of paintings by four Arab artists from the United States — Ghada Jamal, Helen Khalil, Suha Nouris and Afaf Zurayk — at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery in Jabal Amman, between the First and Second Circles (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

★ Islamic book exhibition at the Islamic Centre in Zarqa.

FILM

★ British film entitled "The Woman He Loved" at the British Council — 7 p.m.

DON'T MISS...

FOR 3 DINARS

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FROM 6/3 / TILL 11/3/93

Shemeisani 695308 - 680185

60% of Palestinians in occupied lands favour resumption of peace talks — poll

AMMAN (J.T.) — A recent poll conducted in the Israeli occupied territories showed that 60 per cent of Palestinians are in favour of the resumption of the Arab-Israeli peace talks if a solution is found to the expellees issue.

The poll, which was carried out by the Jerusalem Centre for Information and Communication in the occupied territories, reflected a relative optimism towards the possible outcome of the peace talks.

While 31.9 per cent said that the negotiations will not yield any positive results, 50.7 per cent said and the negotiations will achieve progress

Opinion & Analysis

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.

Established 1975

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Searching in the wrong place

THE ZEAL with which U.N. inspectors search for nuclear activity in Iraq is perplexing. It could be better comprehended, of course, had the international organisation given its quest a regional perspective as well. With Israel already recognised as a nuclear power and Iran fast moving in that direction, the emphasis on Iraq for ending nuclear arms development in isolation from the broader interest of making the whole Middle East a nuclear arms free zone makes a mockery of the U.N. effort and exposes the real intention of the powers behind that effort.

The international community is clearly pursuing and applying a double standard in this context and this is not the first time that it has done so in the area. The latest episode involving a search and destroy mission carried by 13 nuclear experts in Iraq comes on the heels of 17 previous efforts by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to identify nuclear sites in Iraq which found no evidence suggesting the Iraqi government is still undertaking nuclear weapons research or development. Now the U.N. is investigating in the field for the 18th time in spite of all the evidence collected earlier repudiating the charges that Baghdad may still be in possession of a mysterious underground nuclear facility. The question is when this arbitrary U.N. inspection is going to end. The U.N. Security Council cannot decide to dispatch new teams to investigate the Iraqi scene on the basis of the remotest accusations or rumours. There must come a day when this unreasonable international conduct has got to cease. The permanent members of the Security Council are called upon instead to target the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the Middle East by first ending the unlawful monopolistic possession of such mass destructive arsenals by certain countries. There is really no effective way to end the dangers of nuclear and thermonuclear arms as long as some countries have them and others do not. To break the cycle of nuclear proliferation, the comity of nations should strive to remove the initial cause for the spread of such weapons by calling on Israel and Iran to renounce not only the use of nuclear arms but also their development and possession. Only in so doing the danger of one of them or both exercising hegemony in the region could be neutralised.

As long as the U.N. keeps on targeting Iraq alone by sending one team of technical experts after the other to zig zag its territory for no good reason, its conduct could become open for all sorts of interpretations that go beyond the quest for iron clad assurances that the Iraqi regime has effectively abandoned its nuclear programme. One obvious explanation could be that there is a determined policy by some Western powers to harass the Arab country with or without a legitimate cause, for reasons that have no relation to the alleged Iraqi capacity to produce nuclear arms.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE KILLING of Israelis in the occupied Arab lands is not a manifestation of counter-terrorism on the part of the Palestinian resistance but rather a demonstration of anger and a reaction to atrocities committed by the Israelis for so long, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. The paper said the spate of recent killings and assaults on the Israeli troops by Palestinians came in reaction to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's continuous acts of terrorism. At the same time, they display the heroism and the bravery of the oppressed people, struggling for freedom. The Palestinians are bound to escalate their attacks as they reject all the Israeli crimes and the deportation and the demolishing of homes, and they are waging a holy war aimed at liberating their homeland from occupation and ending all forms of racism practised against them, the paper continued. The brave, heroic and daring attacks on the Israelis are bound to increase in intensity and in number to such a degree that the Israelis will find it impossible to contain the situation and unable to stifle the spirit and the voice of resistance, the paper added. Despite the long years of persecution and occupation, said the paper, it is clear that the people of Gaza and the West Bank are not relenting in the struggle for liberation and it is clear that they are determined to transform the life of the Israeli into hell, making it impossible for them to enjoy safety and security anywhere.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily voiced total support for the recently announced plans to build dams to collect rain water. Ahmad Al Misheh said that Jordan, an agricultural country, needs water as a major element for its survival. The construction of more dams, he said, is one step in the right direction to help the country attain its goals. The writer said that most of the rain falling on Jordan every year is wasted due to the lack of sufficient dams to collect the water for irrigation purposes. The writer made specific mention of Ministry of Water plans to build a major dam at Karameh in the Jordan Valley in April to collect rainwater, which can irrigate 400,000 dunums of land in the valley. He said that Jordanians accept the fact that farming remains the backbone of their survival and they welcome projects to help them produce more food. In fact, more food production can enhance national sovereignty and help Jordanians have a feeling of pride in their nation and its achievements. Referring to recent studies and research work in the badia and rural regions, the writer said that the country could benefit from 30 more dams in the north, centre and south in its endeavour to secure sufficient water for irrigation and other purposes. He said the cost of the construction of dams can be met at the domestic level without resorting to further borrowing from the World Bank at humiliating terms.

ADJUSTING TO A NEW WORLD Syria looks to the West

By Ed Blanche
The Associated Press

DAMASCUS — A major shuffle in the intelligence services and reports President Hafez Assad is in poor health are raising questions about where Syria is heading.

The Damascus regime is obsessively secretive and keeping track of its inner workings is extremely difficult.

But with the regime looking increasingly to the West following Communism's collapse Mr. Assad has clearly embarked on economic and political change to secure a place for Syria in the new world order.

Reports that the 62-year-old "lion of Damascus" is ailing have been circulating for months.

Since he is a key player in the Arab-Israeli peace talks, his health assumes greater importance than it may have had previously.

The Israelis have made Syria, its archenemy for decades, the cornerstone of its negotiations because, unlike the other participants, Mr. Assad rules alone and can make decisions unilaterally.

The French newspaper Libération reported recently that Mr. Assad suffered a heart attack around Jan. 19. That was denied by presidential spokesman Jubran Kourichti.

Some Arab sources say Mr. Assad, who survived a serious heart attack in 1983, has had to reduce his workload considerably over the past two years and now works only 3-4 hours a day.

If Mr. Assad is ailing, there is little outward evidence of it and no indication that a power struggle is shaping up.

He met with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher last month to discuss the peace pro-



Hafez Assad: Growing confidence

cess and appeared to be sufficiently healthy.

Whatever Mr. Assad's condition, the regime appears to be increasingly confident as it emerges from years of isolation.

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He met with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher last month to discuss the peace pro-

gramme to be one of the few figures to have instant access to the president.

He is also believed to be close to the president's 32-year-old son, air force Maj. Basil Assad, who has been taking an increasingly high profile of late. Some say Mr. Nassif is expected to take over the whole intelligence service, which would make him immensely powerful.

But if that is so, it marks a significant departure for Mr. Assad. He assiduously has avoided concentrated power in such a manner and has kept the military and intelligence power centres in competition to keep them from posing a threat.

Mr. Nassif's emergence as intelligence supremo would, in theory, strengthen Basil Assad's position. But it remains unclear whether Basil is actually being groomed to succeed his father.

People who know him say he lacks the political maturity and determination to rule and has shown little inclination to do so. He could be a frontman for other more powerful figures.

Mr. Assad has not publicly designated a successor. So whether power can be transferred smoothly in a country that he has ruled with an iron fist for 22 years is moot.

Syria came perilously close to civil war when Mr. Assad was felled by his heart attack a decade ago.

His unruly younger brother, Rifaat, attempted to seize power in February 1984 and was stymied only when other generals intervened.

Rifaat was sent into exile to Europe, where he lived flamboyantly in Switzerland, Spain and France. Rifaat returned to Damascus in August for his mother's funeral and, to the surprise of many, has remained.

Mr. Nassif, an Assad relative,

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Mr. Nassif, an Assad relative,

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 1993

War and oil

Kurdish violence disturbs Turkish industry

By Ercan Ersoy

Reuters

ANKARA — Kurdish guerrilla attacks on oil installations in southeast Turkey have hampered exploration and production, and alarmed local and foreign firms working there.

Company executives said assaults on oil facilities, which often go unreported in the Tur-

key press, had terrified their workers and greatly complicated daily operations.

But state officials refused to link the violence directly with what they say will be a fall in Turkey's crude oil output this year to 82,000 barrels per day (BPD) from 85,600 BPD in 1992 — roughly one seventh of national consumption.

"Terrorism in the southeast has made it almost impossible for oil companies to work there," Oyman Sayer, general manager of the Turkish arm of the U.S. firm Aladdin Middle East, said. Aladdin Middle East is a fully-owned subsidiary of Aladdin Petroleum Corp., based in Wichita, Kansas.

Mr. Sayer told Reuters one of his engineers had been killed and seven other workers wounded in several Kurdish raids last year. In one attack, an engineer escaped only by feigning death.

Almost all Turkey's oil activity is concentrated in the southeast, scene of a nine-year-old rebellion by the independence-seeking Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK).

In September, the PKK killed two other engineers and wounded five workers employed by Mobil Oil Turk as, a subsidiary of the U.S. Mobil Corp., in an attack on an oil rig in Batman province.

"Local or foreign firms will not be affected in future from terrorist activities in the southeast as our government has taken necessary measures to prevent such attacks," he said.

"We cannot go to some fields and to some depots. We operate some fields only in daytime. Security is a big problem. One

third of my personnel has resigned because of fear," Mr. Sayer said.

Some foreign oil firms say they may reduce operations in the southeast, without publicly citing the violence as a factor.

"We cannot say oil companies have not been affected by terroristism, which surely is a factor in decisions," he said.

Twenty-seven Turkish and foreign companies are exploring for oil and gas in Turkey, which has never been a major producer.

Some rely on army protection. Some foreign oilmen said they preferred to do without it, saying a visible military presence could attract the PKK violence they wanted to avoid.

Oil sources say PKK attacks have caused damage worth tens of thousands of dollars, but no precise figures were available.

TPAO, the largest of Turkey's five oil producers, expects its output to decline to 55,200 BPD this year from 57,643 BPD.

Shell expects its production to fall to 13,100 BPD from 14,500 last year. The U.S.-Turkish partnership ARCO Turkey Inc. projects about 1,900 BPD, down from 2,260 BPD in 1992.

Mr. Ozdemir said Turkey would import more crude oil this year to offset the anticipated drop in output and to meet new demand from an economy expected to grow at about five per cent.

Turkey will buy about 19.65 million tonnes of oil in 1993, up from about 18.5 million last year.

The armed forces have intensified military pressure on the PKK in the past year, but there is no sign the revolt is over.

"The government is doing its best, this is not enough," Mr. Sayer said. "We have 31 troops and village guards protecting one field. Are we fighting a war or drilling for oil?"

LETTERS

Private schools

'Win some, lose some'

To the Editor:

ASSOCIATED AS I am with a fee-paying albeit non profit making school, some might consider it impudent of me to enter into the current discussion on the advisability of inviting government intervention in the administration of private schools. But having been asked for my views by so many, I felt it appropriate to answer through your columns.

Every school, private or state, should maintain the highest ethical standards in all its dealings. However, too much government involvement could prove pernicious to the whole fabric of a balanced, democratic society in which freedom of choice must prevail.

I would therefore suggest that concerned parents, who at present feel they have no choice other than to support the private sector in education, prevail upon their M.P.s and relevant authorities to demand that the standards and facilities of state schools reflect the desires and aspirations of the whole spectrum of our society.

I would welcome a Jordan in which private schooling becomes almost obsolete as is the case in say, France, Scandinavia, and Holland. On the other hand though, I have to remind people that all those countries have very high levels of taxation and in the main, rather small families.

Unfortunately, you win some, you lose some!

Sarvath El Hassan

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

Israel's language of death

In a series of articles, Elia Nasrallah, a Jordanian columnist, has been exposing the harsh reality of life under Israeli occupation. In this final article, he discusses the language of death used by the Israeli authorities to describe the actions of Palestinian terrorists.

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

Jordanians file for Gulf compensation

(Continued from page 1)

Ministry of Labour for accepting applications infuriated returnees who pointed out that it was inconsistent with the Geneva deadline, which is July 1, 1993.

Mohammed Abdul Hadi Al Akeel of the Ministry of Labour says the ministry will now accept applications as long as the committee in Geneva is willing to take them. Charged with handling the returnee compensation claims, Mr. Akeel says the ministry has staff working around the clock to help with the application forms.

The 91,550 claims that have been made thus far fall into six categories.

The first, known as Form A, is a claim for departure compensation of \$2,500 for an individual and \$4,000 for family. A higher amount is paid to those who agree not to file for compensation for any other losses. Individuals are entitled to claim \$4,000 and families up to \$8,000 in this category.

Altogether 58,000 people have filed Form A claims with a total claim of \$285 million.

Form B means a claim of compensation for personal injuries, torture in particular. Personal injury as well as psychological effects resulting from rape or witnessing murders and other crimes are included in this category. While the compensation in this category varies on the type of personal or psychological injury, about 650 people have applied in Form B, according to the Ministry of Labour.

The combined amount of Form B compensation claims is \$5 million.

Form C incorporates losses of all personal and private business ventures worth less than \$100,000. Losses suffered by "unincorporated" partnerships must be claimed jointly by all partners. Thus far 32,000 Form C applications — worth \$1 billion — have been given to the Ministry of Labour.

Because Kuwaiti law allowed only Kuwaitis to own business, all Jordanians and Palestinians had

Self-censorship is a reality in Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

journalists are unaware of what can and cannot be published. Many are not trained in ethics, and therefore they fail to understand what is fair play, explained the journalist, adding that this compels reporters to censor sensitive material from the outset.

Many journalists believe that all forms of censorship should be abolished. They believe that the new press and publication draft law, which forbids reporting on numerous institutions and topics, is as restrictive as the old law. Yet officials working with the press maintain that censorship is necessary to ensure that press freedom is not abused.

"It's like the law of traffic," explained Issa Jahmani, director of the Press and Publications Department. "When you pass the red light, you do harm to others."

Yet if journalists seem cynical about the lack of changes in the field, their performance is also the target of much criticism. Editors, trained journalists and senior press officials claim that the vast majority of Jordanian journalists are unqualified. Some of these critics believe that a certain level of censorship is required in the absence of professionalism and training.

Due to lack of training, experience and understanding of the profession, many reporters do not know how to approach a news item, Mr. Sharif said.

While journalists do admit that training and education is in many cases not up to the necessary professional standards, some say that this should not be used as an excuse for enforcing stringent censorship measures.

"Most journalists aren't well-trained," agreed one freelancer. "But this is also used as an alibi by the government to support the need for extensive censorship practices," the reporter added.

"We can't expect substantial change from the journalists," she added, explaining that the majority of reporters are the

Snags hit Afghan peace agreement

(Continued from page 1)

Most of the rival leaders, allies in the 14-year war of resistance, tested on the Friday weekend but were to meet to break their daily Ramadan fast at the presidential palace before resuming talks in the evening.

They edged closer to an accord after three days of negotiations to try to end the factional battles that have killed and injured thousands of civilians since the Mujahideen took power from the former communist government last April.

By Eric Watkins

THE YEMENI government continues to occupy a precarious position in the wake of riots, bombs and assassination attempts last December. And, with the economy still on a downward slide, that position looks set to become even more precarious in the coming months.

But seemingly daunted by their situation, Yemeni officials continue to exude an air of optimism as the country prepares for its first national elections in April. "No one," says Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Iriani, "can deny that Yemen's future will be prosperous."

Perhaps not. But then again no one can affirm that Yemen's present is anything like prosperous either.

Dr. Iriani has it just about right when he says that "conditions now are due primarily to the consequences of the Gulf crisis". Certainly the expulsion of a million Yemenis from Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states has had a disastrous effect on the economy, depriving it of substantial remittance earnings and adding the burden of so many extra mouths to feed. Indeed, a year after the September 1990 expulsions, unemployment stood at 36 per cent and inflation at 100 per cent. Little wonder there were riots in Ta'izz less than a month later.

But the riots which erupted last December in Ta'izz cannot be attributed entirely or even mostly to consequences of the Gulf crisis. Since September 1990 the money for compensation is expected to come from Iraqi oil sales and frozen assets. Iraqi nationals are specifically excluded from applying for compensation. Even those who lived in Kuwait for decades are barred from applying for compensation.

Compensation Form C specifically says, "Claims will not be considered on behalf of Iraqi nationals who do not have bona fide nationality of another state." A U.N. proposal that Iraq sell \$1.6 billion of its oil, includes a clause which would draw on almost one third of that amount for the U.N. compensation fund. Iraq has thus far refused to go along with this proposal.

Police expect more arrests in bombing

(Continued from page 1)

about the motive for the bombing, saying Salameh had only tenuous links to extremist groups.

Reports conflicted over the nationality of the suspect. Some said he was Egyptian and others said he was a Palestinian. Yet some other reports said he was born in Jordan.

Commissioner Kelly said Salameh's citizenship was still in doubt and investigators are looking into the issue.

Shortly after Salameh's arrest, police investigating the blast searched the apartment formerly occupied by Mr. Sayyid Nosair, who was convicted of weapons charges and assault in the killing of Jewish extremist Rabbi Meir Kahane, police sources said. Nosair was tried but found innocent of Kahane's murder.

While searching, they arrested the current occupant, Nosair's cousin, Ibrahim Al Gabrawy, on charges of obstruction, the sources said.

Both Nosair and Salameh prayed at a mosque in nearby Jersey City which has become a focal point for Muslim fundamentalists in the area.

Among the preachers has been Sheikh Abdul Rahman.

The sheikh, who lives in Jersey City with his three wives, is facing deportation from the United States.

The sheikh, 54, is the spiritual

Yemen's riots prompt talk of reform

somewhat inflated, the deputy minister was at least on the right track about jobs and prices.

Yemen's President Council and ministers were also arriving at the same conclusion. On Dec. 13, the cabinet met to discuss the riots and forwarded recommendations to the Presidential Council proposing measures to "achieve security, improve living conditions, consolidate the capabilities of the national economy, augment and improve public revenues and expedite the process of national reform and reconstruction".

Remarkably the government initially failed to acknowledge the economic causes of the disturbances. Within hours of the riot's eruption, San'a's Radio broadcast a statement from the Presidential Council denouncing the events as "irresponsible and unpatriotic" and stressing the right of "people to express themselves in a peaceful, democratic and civilised manner".

San'a's Radio continued its criticism the following day with quotations from the official press which hinted at a "secret conspiracy" behind the riots, a conspiracy aimed at destroying national unity.

But economic issues soon began to enter government statements. On Dec. 12, the deputy minister of information acknowledged "price rises" as a factor and went on to say that the country had been especially strained "by the return of some 1.5m expatriates after the Gulf war". Though his figures were

tactical atmosphere which prevailed in 1992".

They were critical words.

But more critical still was the blame. Mr. Attas placed on the ruling parties — the General Peoples' Congress (GPC) and the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) — for failing to cooperate with each other.

"The deterioration of the economic situation," he said, "reached a climax when differences between the GPC and YSP contributed towards the splitting of political parties and organisations into two groups."

And in a joint meeting on Dec. 15, the council and the cabinet approved the recommendations which, they said, "proposed ways of gradually tackling the current economic situation in a way to reduce the budget deficit, increase revenues, and curb inflation".

According to Prime Minister Haidar Abu Baker Al Attas, they were fine words but a year too late.

Mr. Attas made his views clear in a subsequent letter to the Presidential Council. Referring to the riots as "constituting an alarm for all sides", he went on to discuss the government's efforts in confronting the failing economy and said it had decided "the major means to tackle this situation was to approve during the joint meeting of the Presidential Council and the cabinet at the end of 1991, and to implement the decisions which were not implemented as a result of the poli-

reconstruction now proposed! the government may well bring economic benefits. In the short term, fiscal responsibility on the part of the government will perhaps reduce public hostility and that turn may improve the climate for investment.

From a member of the Yemeni government, Mr. Attas' words were a startling admission of responsibility and, for the most part, they fit the facts.

In August the riyal began its decline, terrorist attacks increased and inflation rose sharply. Political differences between the GPC and YSP doubtless led to increased tension throughout the country and to a degree of political fragmentation as well. But the riots in Ta'izz sprung from economic causes: from the continuing decline of the economy after the Gulf war and from the failure of the government to do much about it.

But more to the point is the commonly held view that a corrupt government has siphoned off the country's new oil revenues for its own purposes. That view, together with underlying economic frustration, was what triggered the riots.

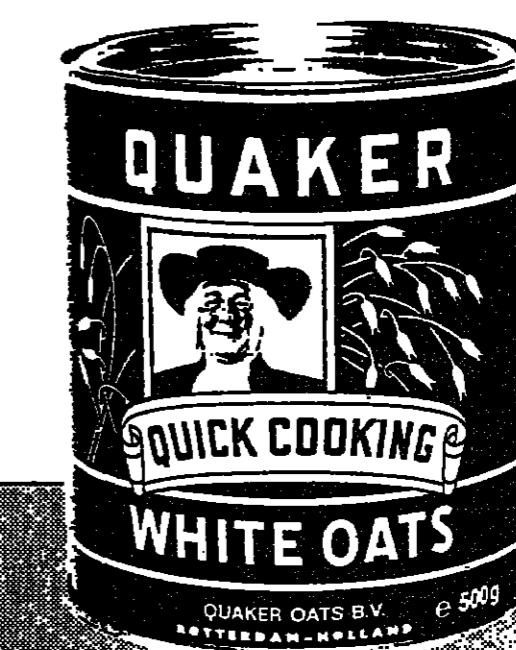
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Snags hit Afghan peace agreement

(Continued from page 1)

Most of the rival leaders, allies in the 14-year war of resistance, tested on the Friday weekend but were to meet to break their daily Ramadan fast at the presidential palace before resuming talks in the evening.

They edged closer to an accord after three days of negotiations to try to end the factional battles that have killed and injured thousands of civilians since the Mujahideen took power from the former communist government last April.

Most parties have agreed to accept fundamentalist President Burhanuddin Rabbani as head of state for the next 18 months while his arch enemy, the hardline Hezmatyar, takes the post of prime minister.

"I accept the president for 18 months if it is ensured that elections for parliament are held within eight months," Mr. Hezmatyar said.

He ruled out allowing Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masood,

the most powerful commander in

Mr. Rabbani's party, to retain his portfolio.

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Russian Lyudmila Narozhilenko takes a hurdle on her way to mark a world record in the 60 metres hurdles (AFP photo)

Narozhilenko breaks world record twice

VILLE (Agencies) — Russian Lyudmila Narozhilenko broke her 60 metres hurdles world indoor record twice within an hour yesterday.

Narozhilenko clocked 7.66 seconds in her heat to beat the record of 7.68 she set in San Sebastian, Spain, Tuesday.

When she returned to the track for the final, the remarkable Narozhilenko lowered the record to 7.63.

Cuba's Aliaska Lopez was well back in second place in 8.05 — as had been when Narozhilenko broke the world record Tuesday.

"I was hoping to repeat my success, but not twice," Narozhilenko told reporters after the race.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Yugoslavia asks to take part in Mediterranean Games

BELGRADE (R) — Yugoslavia has asked French President François Mitterrand to allow Yugoslav athletes to compete in the Mediterranean Games in France next June, the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug said Thursday. It said Yugoslav President Dobrica Cosic had written to Mitterrand saying European statesmen "have no right to deprive the youth of accomplishments of body and will, which in ancient Greece drew level with the genius of poetry." Sporting links with what remains of Yugoslavia were frozen by the United Nations last year as part of a package of sanctions imposed over its role in the war in Bosnia. But the U.N. allowed Yugoslav athletes to compete at the 1992 Summer Olympics as individuals. Yugoslavia was banned from team sports and athletes who took part were not allowed to wear national colours or join the opening and closing parades.

Sainz abandons Portuguese Rally

COVO DE VARZIM PORTUGAL (R) — World champion Carlos Sainz of Spain pulled out of the Portuguese Rally Friday after his Lancia skidded and turned over several times during the second timed stage, race officials said. Sainz, yet to score a point this season, was in third place at the end of Thursday's second section of the rally and 20 timed stages. He was unhurt.

Steaua hold Antwerp to goalless draw

ANTWERP (R) — Former European Cup winners Steaua Bucharest, reduced to 10 men after an hour when sweeper Bogdan Bucur was sent off after collecting his second yellow card, held Antwerp to a goalless draw their European Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final first leg Thursday. Four Steaua players were booked in the first half hour, including Anton Dobos and top scorer Iulie Stan, who will both be suspended for the return leg in Bucharest. Bucur was one of three players cautioned after the kick.



Ayrton Senna behind the wheel of the 1993 McLaren for a test drive. The 33-year-old Brazilian seems all set to drive for McLaren this year's Formula One World Championships (AFP photo)

GOREN BRIDGE

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CARTOON: GOREN BRIDGE, INC.

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold: ♠AQ72 ♣AKQ73 ♦A643 The bidding has proceeded: West North East South 1♦ Pass Pass ? What action do you take?

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠K762 ♣KJ5 ♦Q109 ♦AQ5 The bidding has proceeded: West North East South 1♦ Pass Pass ? What action do you take?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold: ♠J10552 ♣A8 ♦K652 ♦83 The bidding has proceeded: West North East South 1♦ Pass Pass ? What action do you take?

Ben Johnson banned for life after second positive test

PARIS (R) — Five years after his exit in disgrace from the 1988 Seoul Olympics, Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson was banned for life after he was ruled to have failed a second dope test Friday.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation's (IAAF) Doping Commission said it had suspended Johnson with immediate effect after a January urine test showed he had an excessive level of the male hormone testosterone in his body.

IAAF General Secretary Istvan Gyulai told reporters: "After extensive and thorough investigation, the commission unanimously determined that Ben Johnson tested positive after the meeting in Montreal January 17."

A sample from the athlete contained an excessive level of testosterone.

The IAAF said Johnson had the right to appeal against the decision.

Johnson, 31, was stripped off his gold medal and banned for two years following a positive test for an anabolic steroid after finishing first in the Seoul Olympic 100 metres final.

He returned to the track in 1991 and was selected for Canada's Olympic team in Barcelona last year but finished last in his semifinal of the 100 metres.

A second positive doping test automatically involves a life ban under IAAF rules.

In a statement after the hearing, at which Johnson was not present, the IAAF said: "In accordance with IAAF rules, the athlete is immediately suspended

from any athletics competition for committing a doping offence.

"According to IAAF rules, an athlete will be suspended for life for a second doping offense pending a hearing before the respective national athletics federation."

Gyulai said the IAAF would notify their findings to the governing body in Canada, Athletics Canada, to whom Johnson would have the right of appeal.

The five-man doping commission met in a Paris hotel under the chairmanship of Swede Arne Ljungqvist.

He and three other members, Manfred Donike of Germany, Antonio Del Monte of Italy and Frenchman Gabriel Dolle are leading medical experts on doping in sport.

The fifth member of the commission was American lawyer Frank Greenberg.

At issue was whether Johnson's level of testosterone, a male hormone which normally exists in the body at a ratio of 1:1 to its regulatory substance epitestosterone, was unnaturally high. A level of 6:1 is accepted as being artificially induced.

Johnson has, through his lawyers, denied taking prohibited substances.

His second positive test, following the trauma of a first which soured the entire Seoul Games, is a crushing blow to athletics, already dogged by high media profile drug disputes involving German female sprinter Katrin Krabbe and American 400 metres

world record holder Butch Reynolds.

The affair is made even more



Disgraced 100 metres champion Ben Johnson

damaging by the fact that Johnson, who eventually admitted long-term steroid abuse after his disgrace in Seoul, had professed to be clean of drugs since his return to the sport just over two years ago.

Johnson failed to recapture his 1988 form in the first two seasons after his comeback and he weighed substantially less after his body shed much of the steroid-induced muscle bulk.

But he seemed to be getting back to his best at the start of the 1993 indoor season and the sight of his bulking muscles had already started rumours that he was taking dope once more.

Weary Sabatini upset in Florida

DELRAY BEACH (R) — A weary Gabriela Sabatini, still feeling the effects of a virus which started during the Australian Open, was ousted by 73rd-ranked Lindsay Davenport in the third round of the \$375,000 Virginia Slims of Florida Thursday.

While the third-seeded Sabatini was failing 7-6 (7-5) 6-1 to the 16-year-old American, top-seeded Steffi Graf and second-seeded Arantxa Sanchez Vicario moved into the quarter-finals as expected.

Graf, the defending champion, defeated Iva Majoli of Croatia 6-2 6-2. Sanchez Vicario was a 6-1 7-5 winner over 13th-seeded Patricia Hy of Canada.

Sabatini, ranked fifth in the world, listlessly went through the motions on-court and was clearly not in peak condition.

"It's very frustrating because I don't know what's happening," said the Argentine, who has won this event three times. "I'm still not feeling well and I ask myself, what is happening. In the second set I was too tired, couldn't move well and couldn't play my tennis."

Sabatini said she will return to her doctor and if she's not feeling better, may skip the upcoming

Gabriela Sabatini looks dejected after losing the match (AFP photo)

Lipton event in key Biscayne, Florida.

Davenport, a high school student from California, turned professional last week at the Indian Wells tournament and has a 15-3 win-loss match record this year.

"I'm still really excited. I don't know what to do," said the bubbly Davenport. "I didn't get really nervous until 5-0 and then I thought, 'oh my gosh, I might win this.'"

Graf disposed of Majoli, a pro-

tege of Andre Agassi's coach Nick Bollettieri, in 34 minutes. Majoli seemed in awe of the German superstar.

"I was pretty good when I got the ball in play," said Graf. "I was not 100 per cent on my returns. I did make some mistakes there."

Graf's service games, however, were impossible to penetrate — she lost only four points on serve in the first set and five points in the second set.

Volkov upsets Sampras

Russian Alexander Volkov continued his winning ways of 1993 when he upset second-seeded Pete Sampras 7-5 6-4 in the third round of the \$1,400,000 Champions Cup Thursday.

Top-seeded Jim Courier used his first serve and whipping forehand to overpower fellow American Todd Martin 7-5 6-2 in his third-round match at the 56-player, hardcourt tournament.

Fourth-seed Michael Chang overcame fellow American Mallory Washington 6-7 (4-7) 6-3 6-1 in two hours 39 minutes and fifth-seeded Petr Korda of the Czech Republic defeated 12th-seeded Thomas Muster of Austria 7-6 (7-3) 6-4 in other third-

round matches.

Only three of the top eight seeds reached the quarter-finals, even though all of the top eight seeds are ranked in the world's top 10.

The 15th-seeded Volkov's impressive win over Sampras, ranked second in the world, gave the 22nd-ranked Russian his 19th match win of 1993, which is the most of any player on the ATP Tour this year and includes one tournament title in Auckland, New Zealand.

Sampras, normally an aggressive competitor, played defensively against Volkov and found himself missing shots at the baseline instead of spending time at the net where he is more comfortable.

Volkov controlled the match by playing to the American's forehand, normally his strength, and hitting several passing shot winners off Sampras's second serve.

Sampras staged a brief rally when he broke Volkov for 5-3 in the second set when Volkov was serving for the match and then held his own serve for 5-4, but the crafty Russian hit two key forehand passing shots to take the final game of the match.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 1993

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY MARCH 6, 1993
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Don't bring up controversial subjects during the middle part of today as the Moon opposes Saturn and squares Pluto unless you are willing to get into a long term fuss over something not worth the time.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A private consultation with one in power who has the ability to give the backing you want to your plan project can produce unusually mutual pleasures.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can communicate to those you like the most about your family today in getting your home to be receptive to suggestions made and follow them.

Taurus: (December 22 to December 20) You need to come to a better understanding about material joint interests with members of your household and this is a fine day to do so.

CAPRICORN: (January 21 to January 19) Let whoever is able to aid you to gain your personal desires know just what they are and accept their assistance in making them your own.

AQUARIUS: (February 21 to February 19) Forget all that wishful thinking and get into the practical issues that face you for you can get them settled now in a good common sense manner.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Think about what you can do to make good friends realize you are fond of them by arranging some form of entertainment that is liked by all concerned.

THE BETTER HALF.

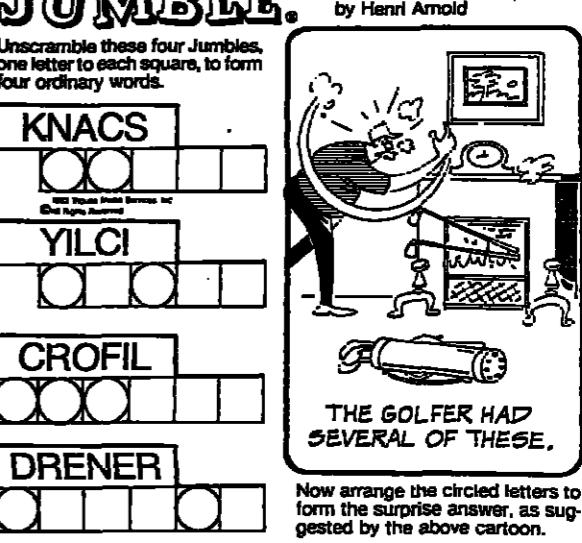
By Glasbergen



"Last night she called me up and asked me for a date! Can she do that if we're married?"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold



Answer here: IN THE

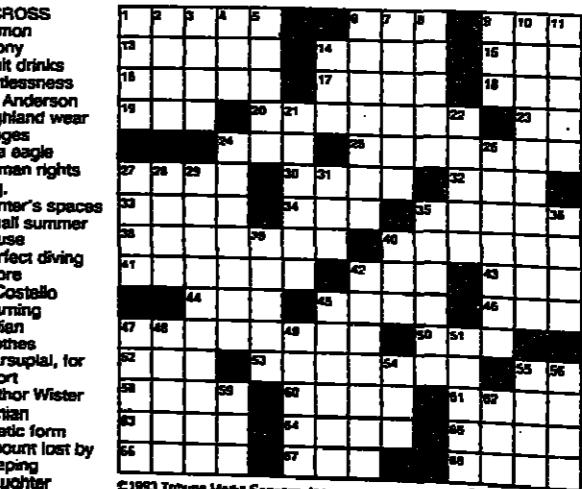
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: AGLOW GIVEN DAMPEN COMEDY

Answer: This goes without saying in these days of high prices—MONEY

THE Daily Crossword

by Harry Bryan



62 Faux pas, 63 Connection, 64 Camp's name, 65 Africa or pot, 66 Has done, 67 Western, 68 Warless areas, 69 Unclose, 70 Malaysian skirt, 71 Actor Richard, 72 Part of TV, 73 Part of TV, 74 Neutical word

75 Leader, abbr., 76 Wall and family, 77 OPEC land, 78 Carded, 79 Western, 80 Those people, 81 Indigo, 82 Work mythology

83 —long, 84 —long, 85 —long, 86 —long, 87 —long, 88 —long, 89 —long, 90 —

Economy

France's Suez banking group dives into first ever loss

PARIS (R) — French diversified banking group CIE de Suez has reported the first loss in its 135-year history as huge property provisions drove it deeply into the red.

Suez, founded in 1858 to help finance the building of the Suez Canal, estimated its 1992 net loss after minority interests at 1.8 to 1.9 billion francs (\$320 to \$340 million), compared with 1991's 3.83 billion francs (\$685 million) profit.

The company, whose business is split roughly one-third each between banking, insurance and industrial activities, said that real estate losses and provisions had a negative impact of 4.2 billion francs (\$752 million).

"It's absolutely staggering," said Ian Furnivall at Kleinwort Benson in Paris. "It's a reflection of a lack of control over property investment over the last 10 years."

He said Suez management was trying to convince the market that it had now made provisions for all of its potential losses on property. But he added that it was hard for outsiders to unravel just how much property exposure the sprawling group had.

Prior to 1992, the company's worst performance ever was in 1974, when it reported a net profit of 234 million francs (\$42 million).

Suez said its net dividend payout for 1992 was unchanged at 8.20 francs.

"It's absolutely staggering,"

Financial Markets in co-operation with **Cairo Amman Bank**

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 3/3/93	Tokyo Close Date 4/3/93
Sterling Pound	1.4505	1.4475
Deutsche Mark	1.6454	1.6468
Swiss Franc	1.5228	1.5237
French Franc	5.5635	5.5920**
Japanese Yen	116.69	116.98
European Currency Unit	1.1793	1.1785 **

*USD Per STG

**European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.12	3.09	3.18	3.38
Sterling Pound	6.06	5.94	5.68	5.43
Deutsche Mark	8.57	8.00	7.56	6.95
Swiss Franc	5.25	5.06	4.81	4.56
French Franc	11.50	11.50	10.43	9.12
Japanese Yen	3.43	3.18	3.12	3.15
European Currency Unit	9.50	9.25	8.88	8.25

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Metal	USD/Oz	JDGm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JDGm
Gold	328.70	6.35	Silver	3.57	.060

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 4/3/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6900	0.6920
Sterling Pound	0.9966	1.0016
Deutsche Mark	0.4781	0.4202
Swiss Franc	0.4517	0.4540
French Franc	0.1233	0.1239
Japanese Yen	0.5893	0.5922
Dutch Guilder	0.3719	0.3728
Swedish Krona	0.0394	0.0298
Italian Lira*	0.0441	0.0442
Belgian Franc	0.02033	0.02043

* Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 4/3/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8050	1.8210
Lebanese Lira*	0.03835	0.040715
Saudi Riyal	0.1833	0.1848
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2220	2.2450
Qatari Riyal	0.1867	0.1880
Egyptian Pound	0.1940	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7570	1.7780
UAE Dirham	0.1857	0.1880
Greek Drachma*	0.30875	0.31315
Cypriot Pound	1.3905	1.4015

* Per 100

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	2/3/1993 Close	3/3/1993 Close
All-Share	189.90	190.25
Banking Sector	152.59	152.56
Insurance Sector	211.25	212.07
Industry Sector	269.71	270.29
Services Sector	248.09	248.36

December 31, 1992 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday..

One U.S. dollar	1.2410/15	Canadian dollar
	1.6465/75	Deutschmarks
	1.8515/25	Dutch guilders
	1.5272/82	Swiss francs
	33.88/92	Belgian francs
	5.5875/925	French francs
	1562/1567	Italian lire
	116.60/65	Japanese yen
	7.6550/750	Swedish crowns
	6.9950/7.0050	Norwegian crowns
	6.3100/200	Danish crowns
One sterling	1.4565/75	
One ounce of gold	\$329.65/330.15	

Barclays announces first loss in its 97 year history

LONDON (AP) — Barclays PLC, the giant British banking company, said Thursday it lost £285 (\$413.5 million) last year, as bad lending decisions contributed to the company's first loss in 97 years of banking.

The loss compared with a net profit of £296 million in 1991 and was attributed to one-time write-offs on bad loans and money set aside to pay for staff reductions.

Chairman Andrew Buxton acknowledged poor lending decisions

contributed to Barclays' troubles which have been aggravated by Britain's longest recession since World War II.

Mr. Buxton told a news conference that the careers of some Barclays staffers had suffered because of their bad decisions, but he declined to name names or elaborate.

Mr. Buxton said the bank's problems prompted it to cut its per-share dividend by 28 per cent to 15.15 pence (22.12 cents).

The Banking Insurance and Finance Union said Barclays' losses were the result of "monumental incompetence over a long period." Many of the bad loans were for property developments in London and were made when the Bank of England was warning commercial banks against becoming over-extended in the market.

The loss at Barclays was worse than securities analysts had forecast.

The government said it would limit subsidies for out-of-work homeowners to those with mortgages of £150,000 (\$214,100) and under, falling to £125,000 (\$178,400) next year.

"Why should the taxpayer keep a former millionaire in his mansion? the system was never intended to bail out the super-rich on mega-mortgages who made no provision against tough times," said Social Security Secretary Peter Lilley.

British newspapers have reported several cases of huge government benefit payments being made to former business executives who bought large houses on credit before losing their jobs in the country's recession.

In one highly publicised case, tabloids said a man who lost his job as chief executive of an insurance company was having mortgage interest of £1,833 (\$2,616) a week paid by the Social Security Department.

"From the point of view of the world economy as a whole the prime imperative today is the conclusion, without delay, of the Uruguay Round," Mr. Camdessus told Belgian think-tank The Grand Conference Catholique.

"Governments can neither afford to miss the chance nor give in to protectionist pressures," he said.

Mr. Camdessus, who earlier in Paris urged France to sign the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) despite its objections to a deal between the European Community and the United States on oilseed trade, warned that holding out for a perfect deal was irrational and dangerous.

"Without doubt no country or special interest group can get everything they want from these negotiations," he said, adding that holding out for a deal that was perfect in every respect risked failure and a return to protectionism.

The 20-member PTA, based in eastern and southern Africa, was set up to boost inter-African commerce.

Mr. Camdessus said that the Group of Seven industrialised nations — the United States, Canada, Japan, Britain, France, Germany and Italy — also had an important role to play.

"Strategies are one thing, their application is another," Mr. Camdessus said, adding that too many governments were making sweeping statements on growth-promoting plans, but too few of them were putting them into practice.

He said world economic growth was likely to be only 1.5 to two per cent this year, with that in the European Community (EC) possibly positive and at best less than one per cent.

But Mr. Camdessus added, all was not gloom. The world was faced with the best combination of opportunities since World War II.

Mr. Amathila said there was also an uneven distribution of trade costs and benefits such that

Britain stops propping up former millionaires

LONDON (R) — Britain has clamped down on mortgage subsidies for unemployed home owners following public anger at reports that taxpayers were financing former millionaires to carry on living in mansions.

The government said it would limit subsidies for out-of-work homeowners to those with mortgages of £150,000 (\$214,100) and under, falling to £125,000 (\$178,400) next year.

Economists said the unexpectedly sharp reduction in the German central bank's "securities repurchase rate" — to 8.25 per cent from 8.49 — had brought the timing of an official rate cut closer.

"The probability of a cut increases with each (Bundesbank) meeting," said Rainer Schroeder at Dresdner International Advisors. "The question is not whether, but when."

With the mark the key currency in the European Community's currency grid, monetary authorities throughout Europe have been waiting for further reductions in German interest rates to allow them to follow suit and give depressed economies a boost.

The central bank said it would offer funds to the money market next week at an interest rate of 8.25 per cent, well below the 8.49 per cent set on a similar transaction this week.

Prices of German bonds, which are particularly sensitive to interest rate moves, surged on the news. Bond futures prices leapt by half a percentage point.

It usually forms a ceiling for money market rates, while the discount rate — at which the central bank discounts bills of exchange — forms the floor.

Further falls likely

Bundesbank cuts key market rate

Most market analysts are now tipping March 18, the next scheduled meeting of the Bundesbank's policy-making council, as the most likely time for a cut in the nine per cent Lombard emergency lending rate and eight per cent discount rate.

But, signalling the significance on Friday's move, the chief executive of Germany's largest bank said the Bundesbank had already chosen to cut the most important of its range of interest rates.

Deutsche Bank's Hilmar Kopf told reporters in Frankfurt: "What they have done this morning has relevance in the market place and this is what counts."

The securities repurchase rate is the price for funds which the Bundesbank feeds to the German banking system every week and is crucial for the guidance of money market

U.N. mediators see possible break-through in Bosnia talks

UNITED NATIONS (R) — After months of negotiations, international mediators hope Bosnia's Muslim government will agree to a controversial provincial map, the key to an overall peace package.

Sources close to the talks said Bosnia's President Alija Izetbegovic was likely to sign the proposal that divides the republic into 10 semi-autonomous provinces, based partly on ethnic lines.

Should this occur, the mediators will have isolated Bosnian Serbs as the only one of the three parties not to have accepted all three major provisions of the plan drawn up by U.S. envoy Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen of the European Community.

Apparently, the strategy of Western Security Council members then would be to put pressure on Bosnian Serb allies in Serbia by imposing new sanctions against Belgrade and enlisting further Russian support.

At the same time, key envoys suspect the United States has been instrumental in convincing Mr. Izetbegovic he needs to negotiate seriously on the map.

"There is some progress," Mr. Izetbegovic told reporters late Thursday after negotiations with Mr. Vance and Lord Owen during a day of talks with U.S. mediator Reginald Bartholomew and members of the Security Council.

"I am hopeful," Mr. Vance said when asked if he was optimistic Mr. Izetbegovic would sign the map soon.

Lord Owen, who acknowledged the possibility of a Muslim deal, was asked what had caused the change of heart hours after the talks appeared on the verge of collapse.

"Maybe when people look over the brink and they see a continuing war and they see very

little chance of getting the negotiations easily restarted, they face up to the reality."

"There is a comprehensive package here on offer and that comprehensive package can bring an end to the war," he said.

Meanwhile U.S. planes delivering aid to Bosnia may fly at lower altitudes to improve accuracy, although they may then expose themselves to missile or anti-aircraft fire from the ground, military sources said Friday.

The sources, who asked not to be identified, said the U.S. Air Force was considering the move because much of the aid dropped so far from high altitude had been scattered.

U.S. officials say many packs of food and medicine dropped near the Muslim enclaves of Cerska, Zepa and Konjevic since Sunday had not been picked up by their intended recipients because of rough terrain, snow, fighting or inaccuracy.

Russia is planning to join the United States in parachuting food and medicine into former Yugoslavia, but Washington's NATO allies have been more reluctant.

The U.S. military commander in Bosnia and a senior aid official were trying to enter the blockaded Muslim enclave of Cerska Friday although their mission was not authorised by Serb forces, a U.N. spokesman said.

General Philippe Morillon, head of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia and UNHCR official Laray Hollingsworth travelled from their base in the Bosnian capital Sarajevo.

"Flying lower means the planes could drop with more precision but it will be riskier," said one source. "They are in the process of weighing up those risks now."

The United States has not said what it would do if any of its aid planes were shot down, nor has it given official details of the flights' altitudes so far.

Four U.S. Air Force C-130 cargo planes returned to base in Germany safely Friday after dropping food and medical supplies over eastern Bosnia for a fifth successive night, the U.S.

European Command said.

A command spokesman said he was not aware of any major changes to the airdrop mission.

But he added: "Every mission is different. It would be a mistake to assume that just because we have a way of doing these things that every flight is done in exactly the same way. Procedures are not locked in concrete."

Friday's flights raised the total U.S. aid paraded over eastern Bosnia since Sunday night to 101 tonnes of food, or 93,312 individual meals, and 2.8 tonnes of medical supplies.

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U.S. Air Force photographer Staff Sgt. Michael C. Funk (left) is steadied by Staff Sgt. Gregory L. Herren as they prepare to videotape the fourth airdrop of food and medical aid over eastern Bosnia (AFP photo)

COLUMN 8

Whitney Houston gives birth to a girl

MENDHAM, New Jersey (AP) — Whitney Houston gave birth to a 6 pound, 12-ounce (3-kilogramme) girl with her husband, fellow singer Bobby Brown, at her side. Ms. Houston and her daughter were resting comfortably, said her spokeswoman, Lisa Mintelmann. She said the baby's name had not yet been chosen. Ms. Houston, 29, and Brown, 24, were married at their home in Mendham last June. Brown said last month she was hoping for a girl and that she would be named Bobbi. Ms. Houston starred in the recent movie "The Bodyguard," and her single from the movie, "I Will Always Love You," was No. 2 on the billboard chart last week. She has two other singles in the top 20. Brown's single, "Get Away," was No. 14. The child was Ms. Houston's first and Brown's fourth.

Agent's crack down on hi-tech computerised child porn

MIAMI (R) — Federal agents have conducted a nationwide search for evidence against "computer perverts" who use international computer bulletin boards to traffic in child pornography, U.S. customs officials said. Authorities say people can use computer modems and phone lines to import child pornography from Danish-based bulletin boards.

The cutting edge porn technology enables the users to display the images on computer screens, store them on an ordinary floppy disk, or print them with the quality of a photograph. Several hundred federal agents served 31 search warrants in 15 states and 30 cities as a result of Operation Longarm, the largest-ever anti-child pornography effort mounted by U.S. authorities.

Congress is theoretically empowered under the constitution to abolish the presidency, and some hardliners have called for Mr. Yeltsin's impeachment.

First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeiko, responding to Mr. Ryabov's speech on Mr. Yeltsin's behalf, said the president was prepared to be flexible over the form of the proposed agreement proposed by Mr. Yeltsin.

Mr. Yeltsin has said if parliament rejects his power-sharing deal he will go ahead with a national referendum on April 11 to ask the country's 150 million people who should rule Russia, parliament or president.

But this, too, would require the approval of Congress, where opposition to the plebiscite is strong.

The situation came as a result of extremely aggressive behaviour by the executive authorities," he added, referring to the branch of government headed by Mr. Yeltsin.

"The potential of this authority is almost over and it is trying to destabilise the legislature," said Mr. Khasbulatov, who heads the standing parliament and the conservative-dominated Congress of People's Deputies, Russia's supreme legislature.

She also laid a bouquet at a memorial honouring the 167 people, including 34 Britons, who died five months ago when a Pakistan International Airlines jetliner crashed near Katmandu Airport.

Princess Diana walked around the arc shaped memorial reading the names, each of which has been carved into a separate marble brick.

Princess Diana toured Mount Everest in a helicopter Wednesday, 40 years after a British expedition became the first to reach the summit of the world's highest mountain.

China's imperial survivor in hospital

PEKING (R) — China's imperial survivor, the 86-year-old brother of the last emperor, is in hospital, officials said Friday. Officials at the Peking Union Hospital gave new details of Aisin Gioro Pu Jie's illness. One said it was "old age" and not serious and others hung up the phone when asked for information. An official of the Public Health Ministry said special government permission was needed to discuss the case.

Princess Diana also went to the British Gurkha camp in a suburb of Katmandu where she was greeted by a bagpipe player. She visited the 253 recruits who recently arrived from the mountains.

Princess Diana toured Mount Everest in a helicopter Wednesday, 40 years after a British expedition became the first to reach the summit of the world's highest mountain.

Major forced on defensive after comment on Thatcher legacy

LONDON (Agencies) — British Prime Minister John Major has been forced onto the defensive after the Labour Party said his criticisms of the 1980s industrial policies of Margaret Thatcher's government were an attack on his predecessor.

John Smith, leader of the opposition Labour Party, in heated parliamentary exchanges Thursday accused Mr. Major of trying to blame Baroness Thatcher for "the abject failure of your government's economic policies."

In an interview with the Independent newspaper published Thursday, Mr. Major said he had never accepted the downgrading of the manufacturing industry in favour of the service sector in the 1980s. This was taken by Labour as an attack on Mrs. Thatcher.

The prime minister's insistence that Mr. Smith had been "misled" by newspaper reports only led to derisive laughter from Labour benches. Mr. Major said: "Lady Thatcher did more to help British industry than the Labour Party has ever done."

Mr. Major's remarks on downgrading manufacturing were: "I don't agree with it. I didn't agree with it in the eighties. I was a minority view in the eighties. I am not a minority view now and anyway I'm in a better position to expound my views."

In parliament Mr. Smith asked: "Can you explain what you meant when you said you were in a minority in Lady Thatcher's administration?" adding the comments were "revealing" about

"the whole system makes the country look like a laughingstock, when people are bedded in ribbons that have no meaning,

"that in some cases are having old

"and that if they did anything wrong, Mr. Garcia tortured

"them with electric sticks, tweezers, fire and needles."

"The awards should not be automatic and follow simply as a result of doing a particular job."

Mr. Major: "Honours should be awarded on merit for exceptional achievement or exceptional service over and above that which normally might be expected."

The only automatic honours will be for High Court judges, to retain their independence.

Zulus say no as South African talks resume

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Multi-party negotiations resumed in South Africa Friday with the powerful Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) saying it rejected power-sharing arrangements planned by the white government and the African National Congress (ANC).

"The IFP is not interested in being a party to a complex power-sharing arrangement... nor do we desire to have our representatives participate in a so-called government of national unity," it said.

Its statement, and one by the IFP government of Kwazulu tribal homeland, said there would be trouble if the two main players, President F.W. de Klerk's government and National Party and Nelson Mandela's ANC, continued on their present course.

The IFP and Kwazulu also said they wanted the complex issues of regional powers and federalism settled by a multi-party conference rather than by a popularly-elected Constituent Assembly as suggested by the government and the ANC.

The statement repeated Inkatha's known position. But in the context of the renewal of talks after a nine-month hiatus caused by chronic township violence, they signalled possible stumbling

blocks ahead.

The two-day conference began with a reminder of the warfare tearing apart South Africa's black townships.

Law and Order Minister Hermon Kriel called reporters into a side room and announced three men had been arrested in connection with the killing of six schoolchildren by gunmen in Natal Tuesday.